

The Carlsbad Current

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR.

CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, JAN. 14, 1921.

NUMBER 8.

OIL ACTIVITIES IN PECOS VALLEY

The oil well of the Kansas-New Mexico Co., eight miles west of Lakewood, was shot Wednesday afternoon. A large number of persons were present from various parts of the county to witness the event, the work being done by an experienced man from El Paso, Texas. The oil shot for a distance of forty or fifty feet above the derrick. Those having the work in charge express themselves as satisfied with conditions around the well although it did not flow after being shot as many were hoping and expecting. The management did not anticipate a flowing well, as it is not deep enough for a gusher. As soon as practical a pump will be installed and the well given a thorough test.

D. R. Harkey and others conveyed this week to the Kansas-New Mexico Oil Company oil leases on lands located in the following sections and townships: 35-24-28, From 5 to 29 in 25-28. From 1 to 13, 13 and 24 in 25-27; and sections 10, 11, 12 and 13 in T. 24 R. 27. It is understood that drilling operations will commence on part of this lease at an early date. Thomas M. Hart and Willis Wright, president and vice-president of the Portland-Pecos Oil Company, left Monday for their respective homes. Mr. Wright to Los Angeles and Mrs. Hart to Portland, Oregon, after spending several days here. The gentlemen are interested in oil lands in this county and while here made a brief survey of the valley, going to the well at Dayton and the one west of Artesia, as well as the one below town.

They say they are well satisfied with their trip and with the outlook for the valley, in the near future, and will return in a short time and proceed to drill wells on their holdings south of Magala. Mr. Hart's company has leased about 12,000 acres in that part of the country while Mr. Wright's company controls about 7,000 acres. Their geologist will arrive here from California in a couple of weeks, and as soon as he arrives a definite site will be fixed for the drilling. It is probable that one experienced manager will be put in charge of both tests. The gentlemen speak in high terms of the friendliness they experienced from our people, and say they appreciate it greatly. Mr. Wright has made other visits to Carlsbad, but this was the first time for Mr. Hart, who has some very nice things to say about the valley and its people.

Activities in the oil field during the past week have not been characterized by noise or commotion but a good deal of quiet work has been done the results of which will show later on. The main feature of present activities is the formation of new companies for development and the selection of locations for drilling purposes.

The Illinois Producing Co., has transferred the scene of its activities to the Dayton well, and is now drilling at a depth of about 3700 feet. The intention is to stay by this well until it is completed which it is expected will require about thirty days. It was the original intention to begin pumping the

Lakewood well and use the oil for fuel in finishing the Dayton well. But it was found that the installation of off burning apparatus would involve considerable time and money. Moreover, there is coal enough at Dayton to finish the well which would be useless in that or any other location in that vicinity when oil burners are once established. It is the evident purpose of the company to bring in both wells then use oil for the further development which it is understood the company has in contemplation in the Seven Rivers district. A pump and additional tankage have been ordered for the Lakewood well. The bailing of this well up to the time of quitting showed that the average estimate that had been made concerning its yield was not too high. The yield will be somewhere between 25 and 50 barrels.

A location for a new well was selected early in the week by a California aggregation. There is as yet no corporate name but the prospective well is known as the Houser, Jinks and Hales well. The location is on Section 15-20-25. The holding embraces 120 acres and was taken over from the Kansas-New Mexico holdings and what is known as the Howard pool. The rig for drilling this well is to be shipped from Gallup, N. M., and work will begin as soon as the rig arrives.

The Sunshine State Co. is pounding away at their well on Section 29-21-23 and is making satisfactory progress.

The Kansas-New Mexico Co., is waiting for the material to shoot their well. An order which had been placed for solidified nitroglycerine was cancelled and a new order placed for pure nitroglycerine. The officers of the company expect this material to arrive in time to shoot the well about the middle of the coming week. It will be brought from El Paso, Texas, in an automobile and an expert shooter will come along to shoot it. The Kansas-New Mexico has ordered a complete pumping and tankage outfit.

The Pecho well of the National Exploration Company is down something over 2000 feet with excellent indications. The showing is in fact so promising that the company, it is reported, has made a location for another well in that vicinity.

The wells of the same company at Orchard Park and Lake Arthur, respectively, are going right along, the latter being down over 1100 feet.

A company known as the Tri-State Oil Company has filed articles of incorporation, which will be printed in the next issue of the Advocate. The incorporators are from Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Artesia. The company has a considerable acreage in the Seven Rivers district upon which it announces its intention to drill.

The shoe for shutting off the water in the Pecos River well has arrived and been placed with satisfactory results. Drilling has also been resumed. The drill has gone into the sand spoken of last week to a depth of sixteen feet. This sand has a good saturation, and the officers of the company are much pleased with the excellent showing at such a shallow depth. A special meeting of the stockholders has been called for Jan. 17.

Audrey Smith spudded in a well last Monday on Section 11, township 20, range 24 and went down

COMMERCIAL CLUB ELECTIONS OFFICERS.

Last Tuesday the Carlsbad Commercial club held its regular annual meeting for the election of officers and hearing the report of the secretary. W. F. McIlvain, secretary of the club, reviewed at length the past years work and rendered a financial report which showed how the funds of the club had been spent and what was on hand in the treasury.

Road improvement had a prominent part in the activities of the club and the graded road between here and Lovington which is now about completed is a direct result of these efforts. The route to El Paso by the way of Van Horn, Texas, has been posted with proper signs as far as the state line and the officials of Culberson county have promised the club to finish this work in that county.

The Santa Fe has been petitioned for a lower freight rate on alfalfa hay from the valley. Most of the hay in the valley is damaged or lower grade and cannot be sold advantageously except to alfalfa mills and the low market for the products of the mills makes it so they cannot pay the high freight rate on hay out of this valley. The Commercial club is trying to get this rate lowered and as such an adjustment has been secured recently in other sections of the country it is expected favorable action will be taken by the railroad.

After reminding the members that they should stand squarely behind the city council in its effort to pave the streets of the city and such other things as would be for the betterment of the town, the secretary concluded his report. W. A. Craig then reminded the Club that there are now many places of business not represented in the membership of the club and that something should be done to bring them in.

J. B. McGhee proposed that all parties canvassing the business men for funds for any purpose be directed to the Commercial Club who would investigate the cause and if found worthy extend relief from the funds of the Club and proposed that a fund be created for that purpose.

Next came the election of officers for the present year which resulted as follows:

P. E. Hubert, President.
Mayor J. D. Hudgins, Vice-president.
A. N. Pratt, W. A. Craig, R. M. Thorne, E. A. Roberts, Clarence Bell, W. F. McIlvain, and Joseph Wertheim, directors.

President Hubert made a short address and thanked the members for the honor conferred on him. Vice President Hudgins also addressed the club and explained matters pertaining to the contemplated paving project.

50 feet the same day. This location is only five miles from the Kansas-New Mexico well and is said to be an excellent one. Mr. Smith comes from the Kansas oil fields and is a driller of lifelong experience. He says he is doing this work on his own account and is going to keep right on the job until he brings in a well.

Charles Powell who is a farmer near the Cottonwood, while drilling for an artesian water well in township 16, range 24, encountered a stratum of limestone which showed a good oil saturation.

The National Exploration well No. 3 at Lake Arthur have struck a big flow of artesian water. They are casing this off and will continue drilling in a few days.—Artesia Advocate.

Mrs. William Hannah entertained a few of her friends and relatives at a six o'clock dinner Wednesday evening at her home in West Carlsbad, that being her birthday and also the birthday of one of her guests, Mrs. Sam Helmick. Mr. Hannah's birthday occurred a few days previous and the celebration was for three. Covers were laid for 17 and a splendid dinner was served as is the custom of the hostess on occasions of this kind, she sparing no pains when entertaining her friends. Many wishes are extended the honorees for "many pleasant returns of the day".

MARRIED.

Parmer—Neveenger.

Last Sunday afternoon at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Neveenger, about five miles south of town, the wedding of William Dudley Parmer and Miss Gladys Christian Neveenger was celebrated, Rev. Geo. H. Givan pronouncing the ceremony in the presence of only the immediate relatives of the bride.

Mrs. Parmer has been a resident of this city since her early childhood and attended our public schools, graduating with honors with the class of 1918. After her graduation she took a course in business training at a school in Dallas, and filled a position in that city for some months, later coming to her home in this city where she worked for different law firms. It was while in the discharge of her duties as stenographer for the district attorney who was holding court in Lovington, that she met the man who is now her husband.

Mr. Parmer is spoken of by those who know him as a young man of high principles and ambitions. He occupies the position of court stenographer for Judge Sam G. Bratton, of this judicial district. Many friends of the young people extend good wishes and congratulations to them and wish for them long years together full of happiness and all the joys that make life worth while.

The happy couple left in the evening after the wedding for Hereford, Texas, where the bridegroom's parents reside. They were met at Portales by Judge Bratton, who took them to their destination in his car.

BUYS PIE AT AUCTION— REFUSES TO PAY.

Last Monday there came before Justice of the Peace Frank H. Richards a very amusing case from Malaga. It seems Henry Bowers had bid in a pie at an auction sale held at Malaga some time ago for the sum of \$5.00 and after eating it refused to pay the price. The auction was put on by the ladies of that place to raise money for the school play grounds. According to the testimony in court a certain young lady requested Messrs. Moritzky and Plowman to collect the bill as she was unable to do so on account of Bowers having urgent business somewhere else when she approached him. Moritzky swore that he asked Bowers in a gentlemanly manner for the money at the Malaga gig when he got a cursing while Bowers threw up his hands as if to strike him. Whereupon he hit Bowers across the head with a heavy pair of work gloves which put him to flight. Bowers then had Moritzky arrested for assault and battery. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty and was composed of the following: Will Purdy, Joseph Wertheim, Homer A. Gragg, Lee Hanson, J. F. Flowers and Bert Rawlins. During the progress of the trial the court had to repeatedly rap for order. As far as we have been able to learn, the pie has not been paid for yet.

MARRIED.

In this city, last Sunday, by Rev. D. F. Sellards, F. J. Rohmer and Miss Pearl Fox were married. The young folk are both well known in this city, the bridegroom being the eldest son of the carpenter and contractor, Fred Rohmer, and himself a carpenter of ability and an industrious young man who merits the best wishes of all who admire industry and frugality in a young man.

Mrs. Rohmer, although quite young, is also industrious and pleasing in her manner and hopes are expressed that their married life may be a happy one in the best sense of the word. The Current joins in good wishes to that end.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McClure are spending a few days in Roswell and may decide to locate there if conditions are satisfactory. They made the trip in their car, leaving the first of the week.

Steve Eddins, old timer in Carlsbad, is in town this week from the plains where he resides.

RADICAL CHANGES AT COURT HOUSE.

County Clerk to Use Abstractors' Room as a Private Office and Probate Judge Confiscates Witness Room and Ladies' Toilet.

(The following letter was sent to the Current for publication by a woman who declines to sign her name because of the nature of it. In justice to the Probate Judge, we will state that he went before the board of county commissioners and protested against their action in making him move his office and stated the facts to that body as contained in the letter, which follows.—Editor.)

Some radical changes are taking place at the court house this week under whose direction, or at whose suggestion, it does not generally seem to be known. The little room at the end of the hallway between the county clerk's office and the commissioners' room is to be taken over by the county clerk as a private office and the abstractors' room is to occupy the office of the probate judge and that official has been compelled to confiscate the witness room and ladies' toilet on the floor on which is located the court room.

Mr. Herzog, the courteous and obliging janitor, is in a state of deep perplexity. When the probate judge took possession of the witness room, off from which has been the only ladies' toilet and lavatory in the court house, the sign, "WOMEN" was removed from said toilet and turned over to the janitor.

"Bill," as he is familiarly called by the court house people, not knowing what to do with the sign, and not wishing to throw it away or to destroy it without orders from the court, placed it midway between the Judge's Chamber and the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The county superintendent, being somewhat of a modest nature, and there being no lavatory in his office, objected to the sign, "WOMEN" so near his door, so it was removed to the wall at the end of the hallway near the Judge's Chamber subject to the disposition of the Court.

Bill says he has a sign "Women" all fixed up in gilt and black and, like the man who didn't believe in a heaven or hell, when he died and was laid out in a new suit, he was all fixed up with no place to go.

This seems to be the situation now at the courthouse in regard to the women. They have no where to go without forcing an entrance to the Probate Judge's office, the Judge's Chamber, or the jury room.

Witnesses at court must sit in the hallway and have no access to a lavatory or toilet without undergoing the embarrassment of intruding into the jury room, or the offices of the District or County Judge and run the risk of this intrusion or of meeting those officials or some other man at a most inopportune time.

This may be one of the acquisitions inherited with the right of suffrage, and the day of privacy for women may have passed with the securing of the ballot, but we are yet to be convinced that the women of the county are not entitled to some private quarter in the public court house to which they may retire the same as the men and not be compelled to share such quarters equally with the men and be obliged to undergo the embarrassment and humiliation of the use of the men's toilets while the great court of justice grinds out the principles of right, justice and equality before the law, based upon a high standard of morals.

Respectfully submitted,
A WOMAN.

New Mexico Man Out for Appointment as Land Commissioner.

Santa Fe, N. M. — Charles V. Safford, of Santa Fe, is a candidate for appointment as commissioner of public lands. It was announced by friends of Mr. Safford, who is now in Washington, where he is secretary to United States Senator A. B. Fall. Mr. Safford was for years traveling auditor and bank examiner of New Mexico and later was engaged in the banking business in Albuquerque.

LEGISLATURE NOW IN SESSION.

Santa Fe, N. M.—The fifth New Mexico state legislature, overwhelmingly republican, which convened at noon Tuesday, Jan. 11, postponed the hearing of Governor Mechem's message until Wednesday and adjourned after organizing in both houses.

While many former members reappear in the senate only seven veterans, four of them republicans and three democrats are returned to the house. The galleries were crowded as the session convened and it is expected to be the liveliest for years when a republican platform policy of retrenchment and tax reduction encounters greatly increased demands for appropriations.

Albert H. Clancy of Santa Fe was chosen speaker of the house.

The democrats caucused and named Senator Sellers as their floor leader in the senate and W. W. Nichols as floor leader in the house. Mr. Nichols served in the first state legislature. The republicans elected Senator Wright as the majority floor leader.

Gov. Mechem's message, read before a joint session of the house and senate at noon Wednesday, sets a new record both for brevity and the importance of its recommendations for legislative action.

The message consists of only four typewritten pages, but it recommends the most drastic and far-reaching program of reforms ever proposed before a New Mexico legislature. It calls for the submission of no less than six amendments to the state constitution. The governor adhered closely to the republican platform pledges, featuring economy and retrenchment, and asking for but one appropriation, an item of \$10,000 for flood prevention work on the Rio Grande.

Gov. Mechem's message calls for sweeping tax reform, enactment of a flat rate income tax, and a valorem system of taxation for all purposes.

The message proposes notable economies in the administration of the state government—the consolidation of state educational institutions; the reduction of the corporation commission of three to one with wider powers; abolition of the mounted police, superintendent of insurance, county road superintendents and legal adviser to the governor; an adequate budget system; establishment of a state game commission and a bi-partisan land commission. It recommends important election changes, including the short ballot, a statewide direct primary, repeal of the law permitting election judges to mark ballots, and permitting women to hold state office.

The message urges fixing a later date in the year for the convening of the state legislature, would allow state and county school superintendents to succeed themselves indefinitely and asks that the minimum salary for first grade teachers be placed at \$1,200.

The governor urges passage of an act preventing land ownership by aliens not eligible to citizenship and recommends a "blue sky" law. The land ownership recommendation is construed as following the example of California and Texas in barring Japanese settlement.

The governor especially praised the revenue commission's proposal of the short ballot along with the commission's recommendations for an adequate budget system, flat rate income tax and ad valorem system for mines.

The governor went the republican platform one better when he asked that the direct primary be made statewide for the nomination of all candidates for public office.

The first step toward carrying out his program came immediately when the senate reconvened after the hearing of the message. Senator Wright, Santa Fe, introduced a joint resolution amending the constitution to allow women to hold state office. The first bill to be introduced in the senate as per custom was one providing for the payment of per diem and mileage for the members.

D. G. Grantham, democratic senator from Eddy and Lea counties was appointed a member of the Judiciary and Constitutional Amendment committee.

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SAVINGS DEPOSITS